

**Fisheries Service Weekly Report**  
**August 30, 2012**

**DIVISION UPDATES**

*Estuarine & Marine Fisheries Division*

**Coastal Fisheries Program:** Spiny Dogfish Work Group – Staff held the first meeting with the spiny dogfish industry on August 22. Over 60 fishermen were invited, fifteen people attended the meeting. The industry in attendance was appreciative that the process is starting, and will be sending in their workgroup nomination forms by September 5. Nomination forms are available for anyone who wasn't able to attend the meeting, some in attendance took extras for people who couldn't attend. Nominations will only be accepted from those with a history of spiny dogfish landings or dealer reports.

Two new free fishing areas became effective August 20<sup>th</sup> in Ocean City. Staff have worked with the communications group to spread the word on Facebook, on the website, and via a press release.

**Blue Crab Program:** As of August 27, 2012 there have been 821 harvest reports submitted by the participants of the Electronic Harvest Reporting Pilot Program – Initiated through the Blue Crab Design Team. Feedback from the participants is that they like the daily reporting, they feel that it saves them time over filling out the monthly harvest paper report and feel their reports are more accurate. The majority of the participants, particularly tablet users, say the equipment is simple to use and enjoy having the technology at their fingertips.

**Environmental Review** – Attended a meeting with NGOs, PA DEP, PA Fish and Boat, and USFWS concerning river flow and sediment issues for Conowingo Dam as a result of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing. The final license agreement from Exelon will be issued August 31<sup>st</sup> and will trigger the water quality certification (401) process and PA DEP's request for an Impact Analysis and a Mitigation Plan within 30 days. More importantly this will also expedite the settlement process between Exelon and the Agencies.

We are beginning to build agency consensus for several significant pending issues including:

- Eel passage at Conowingo Dam
- Mitigation for poor passage of American shad, eel and river herring
- Re-opening the catwalk
- Expanding fish passage at Conowingo Dam to include the fall season and additional capacity

Assisted in drafting a response to Exelon to request the final study reports for the five pending FERC-ordered studies which should have been done months ago. The Department is requesting consensus among all agencies that we will not meet for settlement negotiations until study reports are completed and reviewed and the reports have been discussed in an open forum.

Met with federal and state agencies, consultants and land-owners concerning several projects including the expansion of Dominion Liquefied Natural Gas operations in Calvert County. The applicant is proposing to expand operations and is in the pre-application phase. Once the project is completed in 2017, it will allow import and export of liquefied natural gas.

Met with Maryland State Park staff along the Susquehanna River to discuss and develop plans for the possible transfer of property from Exelon to the State. The details of the transfer are still being negotiated.

### Inland Fisheries Division

**Trout Surveys** - Conducted annual trout population surveys in the Savage River Tailwater within the Fly-Only Trout Fishing Area and a station within the Artificial Lures/Flies Trout Fishing Area. Great news – strong year-classes for both brook trout and brown trout were documented this year – the first strong year-class in several years. The adult population consisted mainly of brown trout in the 12 – 16 inch size class, with fewer numbers of brook trout in the 8 to 11.5 inch size class. Adult rainbow trout were also found in each station, as well as one adult cutthroat trout and a young of year (YOY) tiger trout. Cursory results show a combined adult species density of 572 trout/mile and combined YOY species density of 2,103 trout/mile in the Fly-Only area. In the Artificial Fly Area, results show a combined adult species density of 440 trout/mile and combined YOY species density of 2,341 trout/mile. Thanks to all staff members that travelled to Western Maryland to help with the survey.



*Savage River Tailwater -brown trout, brook trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, YOY brook and brown trout, YOY tiger trout.*

Conducted an electrofishing survey in Elbow Branch, a tributary to Deer Creek in the Susquehanna State Park. Elbow Branch is a Class IV stream that has been known recently to have brown trout. Since Inland Fisheries has never surveyed the stream, a multiple-pass survey was conducted. Thirteen adult and nine YOY brown trout were collected in a 95-meter survey station resulting in a standing crop of 32 kg/ha of adults and 243 YOY/ha of brown trout. Results were sent to Matt Stover of Maryland Department of the Environment to start the process of reclassification.

Conducted an electrofishing survey in the lower station of Bee Tree Run below Bee Tree Road with assistance from biologists from Maryland Biological Stream Survey and Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability. Results of the survey were excellent with an estimated standing crop of 48 kg adult brown trout/hectare and 1,134 YOY brown trout/hectare. This survey had the highest standing crop for adult brown trout in the lower station since multiple-pass surveys began in 1988. The previous high was 37 kg/hectare in 1996 and 2008.

**Youghiogheny River Biological Condition Gradient** - Assisted Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) with conducting a multiple pass electrofishing survey in the Casselman River. This river supports a diverse fish assemblage including stonecats, smallmouth bass, northern hogsuckers, white suckers, longnose dace, mottled sculpins, Johnny darters, rosyside dace, common shiners, striped shiners, rock bass, pumpkinseeds, silverjaw minnows, rosyface shiners, central stonerollers, and bluntnose minnows.



*Noturus flavus* – stonecat

*Ericymba buccata* – silverjaw minnow

**State Forest Interdisciplinary Team Work Plan Review** - Participated in the DNR State Forest Interdisciplinary Team to review the FY14 Annual Work Plans for the Green Ridge State Forest, Savage River State Forest, and the Potomac/Garrett State Forest. We addressed Special Management Projects (Sustainable Forest Management Plans, Ecological Significant Management Areas, Forest Stand Delineation, Access Trail Improvement Projects), Land and Water Management Projects (Wildlife Habitat Projects, Big Run Brook Trout Habitat Improvement Project, Red Spruce Restoration Projects, Ecosystem Restoration Projects), Silvicultural Projects (Commercial Regeneration Harvests, Commercial Timber Stand Improvements, Non-commercial Timber Stand Improvements, Salvage Timber Harvests), and General Maintenance Projects.

**Columbia Gas Line Extension** - Attended a field review of the Columbia gas line extension and its associated stream crossings in Baltimore and Harford County with representatives from the US Army Corps of Engineers, Maryland Department of Environment, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The proposed pipeline will cross many wild trout streams and their tributaries as it cuts across the Jones Falls, Western Run, Gunpowder Falls, and Little Gunpowder Falls watersheds.

**Outreach** – Provided a presentation entitled *Fishes of Lake Habeeb* at the Rocky Gap State Park Campfire Program. The campfire program discussed how to identify local fish, fun fish facts, and the importance of clean water, and encouraged children to join the Maryland Youth Fishing

Club. Prizes were given to the youngsters to encourage participation and copies of the 2012 Maryland Fishing Guide were available. The family fun event was attended by 36 campers.

Conducted an electrofishing demonstration and fish identification session in the Patapsco River at River Road for the 54th recruit class of Natural Resource Police.

#### Hatcheries Division

**Warm water hatcheries** – Continued to culture largemouth bass at Unicorn Lake Hatchery and Manning Hatchery to evaluate growth and survival under hatchery conditions. This experiment is winding down and should conclude prior to winter. Fish will be tagged and stocked at that time. Several other species remain under culture, including Atlantic sturgeon, golden shiner, hybrid sunfish and bluegill. Several tours were conducted at Manning Hatchery and staff continues to marvel that there are people that actually seek out and visit fish hatcheries of their own volition.

**Piney Point Aquaculture Center** – Shell bag construction continued in order to support the developing aquaculture industry in Maryland. Staff installed a new shell washer hydraulic system engine and repaired 160 used pallets, which were reclaimed for future use. Shell bags containing 52,000 spat-on-shell were provided to the Marylanders Grow Oysters (MGO) program to support the Annapolis City Dock project and an additional 462,000 spat-on-shell were provided for MGO tributary projects.

**Shad restoration** - Began the annual juvenile shad survey on the Choptank River. The survey assesses American shad and hickory shad stocking efficacy and serves to estimate wild origin juvenile shad abundance in the target tributaries. Staff observed an average number of juvenile shad and other herring species in the Choptank River during the first round of sampling. In total, 28 juvenile American shad were collected. This was in stark contrast to the first sample round on the Patuxent River, where no shad or herring were observed. Due to low rainfall in the Choptank River watershed over the past few months, increased salinity levels were observed at our lower seine sites. An uncommon catch of 177 American harvestfish *Peprilus paru* were released unharmed from the regular seine site below the Dover Bridge.

**Cooperative projects** - Met with Wildlife & Heritage Service staff to discuss the status of the eastern hellbender *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis* and options to protect and enhance the species' survival in Maryland. This is the largest salamander in North America at nearly 2.0' total length and 5.0 lbs. It is a fully aquatic species, can live up to 30 years, and is disappearing throughout its range. In addition to its unusual common name, dozens of vernacular names exist for the species in discrete regions. Some of the more colorful references include mud devil, devil dog, Allegheny alligator, water dog, mud dog and our favorite....snot otter. Little is known about hellbender population declines in Maryland. Many potential threats have been identified but the exact causes for the population declines in Maryland are not well understood. Fisheries Service and Wildlife & Heritage Service are investigating whether hatchery culture of these rare salamanders would serve to conserve the species in Maryland. Early discussions center on a "head start" program strategy. Eggs would be collected from Maryland tributaries and transported to a hatchery facility. Eggs would be hatched and the progeny would be cultured to larger size. This head start could increase survival in natural habitats and test releases of marked

hellbenders could shed some light on the causes of population declines. Survival and habitat preferences of hellbenders at various juvenile sizes could also be determined.



**Coldwater hatcheries** – Annual fish health testing and facility certification at Albert Powell Hatchery was performed by U.S Fish & Wildlife Service Northeast Fishery Center fish pathologists. Ten lots of fish were sampled from the main facility and satellite facilities at Cushwa and Fountain Rock. Trout will be screened for fish pathogens of concern as part of the Hatcheries Division’s ongoing biosecurity and fish health program. Results are pending and no fish will be stocked until they obtain a clean bill of health. Albert Powell Hatchery continued work on their hatch room renovation. Changes should increase survival and growth of early life-stage trout. They are finishing up exterior work on the de-gassing column base and support structure in preparation for the pumped water supply and sump installation.

#### *Cooperative Management Investigations and Fish Health*

**Blue Crab Design Team** – The Team met for an update on the pilot study of electronic reporting (mobile phones, smart phones, iPads). Over 700 reports have been filed since July 16. Texting is a challenge for some because of the question-answer process but getting better. Initially the call center process was taking longer than anticipated but call times are decreasing and satisfaction is increasing. The happiest participants are those using iPads. An application for smart phones and iPads is being installed which will allow the user to store a report for later transmission. However, at this time there is a code intrinsic to the phones which are preventing use. Electric Edge is working on the “fix”.

**Visitors** - Ellen Doneski, Chief of Staff U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce/Science & Transportation, and John Williams, staffer, toured the Cooperative Oxford Lab on August 22. DNR and NOS staff provided briefings. They did not indicate a particular purpose for the visit but seemed favorably impressed by the breadth and depth of state/federal activities and the cooperative relationship.

**GIS** – Attended the 2012 ESRI International User Conference. The central theme to this year's conference was advancements in ArcGIS Online and other cloud and mobile GIS applications. Staff got training on web mapping strategies for government organizations, best practices for designing effective map services using ArcGIS Server, and maritime modeling and benthic survey techniques. New strategies for improving operational efficiency were also discussed.

**Shellfish Health - Exotic Oyster Parasite** - The Virginia Institute of Marine Science Shellfish Pathology Lab has detected *Bonamia exitiosa* infections in *Crassostrea virginica* oyster seed from North Carolina. *Bonamia* species are protistan parasites that can cause lethal infections in some species of oysters. This is the first instance that any *Bonamia* infection has been confirmed in eastern oysters, *C. virginica*. The parasite is also known to infect the crested oyster, *Ostrea equestris*, in Atlantic coast waters south of Cape Hatteras.

While the impact of *B. exitiosa* on *C. virginica* is uncertain, care must be taken to avoid spreading it, particular to areas north of its known range (Cape Hatteras to Florida) where *C. virginica* have never been exposed to it. In this case, a few of the observed infections were heavy in intensity, but most were light. We strongly recommend that oysters from *B. exitiosa*-endemic areas should be confirmed by pathologists to be free of this pathogen before transfer to non-endemic waters.

This discovery and the growing shellfish aquaculture industry highlight the need for a regional, if not national, coordinated policy and program for transfer of shellfish seed among distinct bodies of water.

**Finfish Health** - The multi-species fish health survey recently targeted bluefish. A total of 120 fish will be examined in 2012. Initial results indicate a heavy infection of digenetic trematodes, a worm-like parasite, in the heart and blood vessels around the gills. Approximately 20% of the fish examined thus far exhibited severe heart lesions, although there were no other gross indications of disease. Trematodes are commonly found in fish in Chesapeake Bay and elsewhere, and severity of infections can vary considerably from year to year. Additional tests are underway to determine the extent of potential bacterial pathogens in this population including *Mycobacteria spp.*

**Marine Mammal and Sea Turtles - Loggerhead sea turtles** - A loggerhead sea turtle stranded dead in Anne Arundel County. Propeller marks were present – as were two hooks in the GI tract. The carcass was in an advanced state of decomposition and definitive determination of cause of death was not possible.

A second loggerhead sea turtle was found dead – in Ocean City. The carcass was moderately decomposed, however the plastron and carapace were missing caudally (probably boat trauma). No organs were present.

**Staff safety** - Staff members were fitted for N-95 respirators. This was deemed necessary since the NOAA Charleston Lab recently found *Brucella spp.* in bottlenose dolphins and is now requiring this Personal Protective Equipment for all NOAA labs. Since our lab is associated with the federal Hollings Marine Lab (Charleston, SC) we are required to provide fit-testing as well.



## **Wildlife Health –**

**Birds** - Avian Botulism (suspected) continues at Poplar Island and results are still pending from the National Wildlife Health Center. Additionally - blue-green algal blooms are being reported this week. To date – over 300 birds have been collected (shorebirds and waterfowl).

**Deer** - Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) season continues to be reported throughout the state in low numbers. Other mid-Atlantic states are reporting increased deer deaths – likely due to EHD.

## **Communications and Outreach Division**

**Facebook** – <http://www.facebook.com/MDDNRFisheriesService> – Fan base is now 483. Recent posts include: State Record Scalloped Hammerhead Caught at the White Marlin Open; There are now two free fishing areas on the coast, as of August 20; and Fifth Diamond Jim Rockfish Certified! Could be worth \$20K!

**Press releases** – Posted 2 news releases: Hammerhead Shark

<http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/dnrnews/pressrelease2012/082812.asp> and True Blue Contest <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/dnrnews/pressrelease2012/082912c.asp>. Staff drafted news releases on the following topics: blue catfish, Maryland Fishing Challenge Diamond Jim, and two new free Fishing areas in Ocean City.

**Customer Service** - Customer service questions covered a wide range of recreational topics this past week. There were six fish identification requests with the most unusual being a remora caught by a fisherman at the mouth of Eastern Bay. Other questions that were answered included 5 questions regarding crabbing regulations, observations and requests for guidance as to where to go crabbing. There were questions regarding observing phosphorescence in the bay, distressed fish, algae blooms, where to fish and location of boat ramps. One email came in from a pet owner wanting guidance in regard to two pet red-eared sliders that had outgrown their home.

**Fishing Challenge** - There are 1065 entries into the 2011/2012 Maryland Fishing Challenge and fishermen are actively submitting entries to meet the closing date of September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Award certificates were mailed to 56 entrants and 26 individuals were entered this week. Displays at the Finale event will include a table top poster showing locations where entrants caught their fish and a fish tank with a collection of live freshwater fish.

**Maryland Youth Fishing Club** - Two new entries were made to the Maryland Youth Fishing Club and welcome packets were mailed for a total of 795 entrants to date.

**Fishing Report** - The fishing report focused on a mix of fishing opportunities for white perch, striped bass, bluefish and Spanish mackerel in the Maryland portions of the Chesapeake. Regions in the lower bay that offered good fishing opportunities for flounder, croaker, spot and speckled trout were also covered. Recreational crabbing remained steady.

## **Artificial Reef Updates –**

**Cook's Pt. Reef Ball site, change in deployment schedule** – Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) would like to deploy Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association (MSSA) loaned reef

balls in mid to late-September and finish the Cook's Pt project this year, as opposed to waiting for spring, 2013. Staff will notify USCG and ride along to monitor deployment. The MSSA delivered 50 "Low-Pro" reef balls (2 ft wide X 1.5 feet high, 80-130 lbs. in weight) to the CBF Shady Side Facility (ORC). The contributions were 18 Low-Pro reef balls from Clint Water's molds (Dorchester Chapter) and 32 from Bill Huppert's molds (Perry Hall Chapter). The reef balls were loaded in the setting tanks and set with spat. The R/V Patricia Campbell will deploy them on or about 9/20-9/21 on the Cooks Point Reef Site "3A-4A", making the total count 300 Reef Balls for 2012 (as presented at TFAC meeting this spring). Approximately 2.4 million more spat on shell (SOS) will be seeded on top of the reef balls after the 50 Low-Pros are deployed, which will complete the CBF/MARI Cooks Point Reef project for 2012.

Total counts for Cooks Point Reef Project after deployment of final 50 reef balls, on or about September 20-21, 2012 (4 acre northern expansion, "Site 3A-4A"):

- 240 Mini Bay Ball reef balls
- 60 Low-Pro reef balls
- Over 645,000 spat on all 300 reef balls
- Over 11 Million SOS seeded on top of 4 acres of Reef Balls

**Update on St. Mary's Reef Ball Project**-(St. Mary's College, St. Mary's Watershed Association, and Rotary) - Approximately 30 reef balls are being built at CBF's Oyster Recovery Center in Shady Side this week. These reef balls are being allocated to the St. Mary's Oyster Reef project (sited off the College shoreline) under a permit held by the St. Mary's Watershed Association. The target date for deployment is October 13.

**Hail Cove Reef Project** (Eastern Neck, lower Chester River) - Start date for Hail Cove reef project (along Eastern Neck in the lower Chester River), in partnership with United States Fish & Wildlife Service, is going to be pushed back to late fall or spring. Based on conversations with DNR Construction Unit an April/May 2013 start date is expected. The main issue is major concerns from DNR Fisheries Staff and DNR legal staff with marine insurance and logistics issues on the barge which is needed to transport crushed limestone and granite from the Vulcan facility at Havre De Grace to a temporary mooring area near the reef site in about 10-15 feet of water in the Lower Chester River, north-northwest of Hail Pt. The barge (large "car float" style) is 300 feet long draws 10 feet of water, and we need an area with sufficient water depth that is also a safe distance from the channel (about 200-250 feet based on standard CG rules). The temporary mooring area will have to be approved by the Baltimore and or Portsmouth offices of the USCG. After CG approval a Notice to Mariners and Marine Information Broadcast would be issued. In addition we also have a permit issue, and we are waiting on a new Water Quality Certification letter from MDE.

*Legislation, Regulation, FMP, Fish Passage and Habitat Protection*

**Fishery Management Plans (FMP) and Fish Passage** - Completed the striped bass, weakfish, and oyster FMP updates for the 2011 Legislative Report. Staff is also working on completing the horseshoe FMP review.

Participated in an Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council's Habitat Committee (HC) conference call. The purpose of the conference call was to review the HC's 2013 Habitat Action



Plan prior to submission to the ASMFC Management Board for approval. Accomplishments and outstanding tasks for 2012 were discussed.

Began preparing supplemental Maryland Property View data (computer assisted mass appraisal - CAMA) for use in a relative index of land development to aid in fish habitat management. The CAMA data will provide additional property development features such as detached garages, tennis courts, swimming pools, and pole barns. Staff continued the online course for programming in the Python language.

Researched captive terrapin handling protocols and provided input to Wildlife & Heritage Service new classroom terrapin handling policy.

The Patapsco River Restoration partners received authorization from MDE to perform borings at the Bloede Dam site. Data from the borings will provide additional information to characterize the channel in the impoundment area above the dam. The work is scheduled for the first week in September but is dependent on weather and water levels.

Modified the Masonville Mitigation Proposal to resubmit to the Army Corps of Engineers. The original proposal was for the construction of eel ladders on the Patapsco River dams and monitoring of the ladders to validate successful upstream migration. Since that time, two of the dams have been removed and a third is under consideration. The proposal has been modified to request additional funding for biological monitoring on the Patapsco.

The open public comment period on the Bloede Dam Alternatives Analysis ends August 31<sup>st</sup>. To date, the MD DNR website has received 660 visits since July 21<sup>st</sup>. As a result of public comment, information will be developed for the webpage that addresses questions about alternative sediment removal suggestions, cultural/historic aspects of the dam, and an examination of additional repairs to the fish ladder. Staff has prepared a draft that explains what would be necessary for additional repairs to the fish ladder and the efficiencies associated with Denil fish ladders.

Continued working on evaluating the parameters and weights of fish data for the Chesapeake Bay Fish Passage Prioritization tool. There was concern about how to use the “potential habitat” parameter for sturgeon and striped bass. The most recent preliminary “run” of the tool was skewed because of the rule criteria for sturgeon and striped bass potential habitat. As a result of a discussion via conference call, the fish data will now be calculated in three steps.

**Fish Habitat and Ecosystem Program** - Staff is processing the stomach contents of striped bass collected by the Fish Health Program at Oxford Lab as an addition to their standard monitoring.

Entering Scientific Collection Permit Data (SCP) data and coordinating information with Maryland Biological Stream Study for a possible future map plotting.

Summer sampling of the estuarine fish community in Wicomico River (Potomac), Gunpowder River, Middle River, Tred Avon River, Mattawoman Creek, Piscataway Creek, Harris Creek, and Broad Creek (Eastern Shore) continues through September. Staff is evaluating nursery and

adult habitat of recreationally important finfish in sub estuaries of the Chesapeake Bay located on both the Eastern and western shores to see how development, indicated by the density of structures (houses, businesses, etc.) impact the habitat of finfish.

Attended the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting. Staff gave two presentations, “Managing Chesapeake Bay’s Land Use, Fish Habitat and Fisheries” and “Applying Impervious Surface Thresholds in a Fisheries Management Context.” The presentations were well received and prompted further collaboration with local NOAA staff.

Staff was accepted to coordinate a session at the upcoming 2012 Chesapeake Watershed Forum, sponsored by the Alliance for Chesapeake Bay (September 28-30). The session, “Conserving Key Fish Habitat in Maryland” will include presentations describing the science behind impervious stressors to fish habitat and how the science is being applied to guide policy. As part of this effort, staff is summarizing planning recommendations that support habitat conservation, from the Mattawoman Ecosystem Based Management Plan. This summary will be available to session participants to help them better communicate and support sound land planning options.

Staff will be presenting results of the impervious cover work and its application at the Maryland Water Monitoring Council Meeting in December.

Staff is working with DNR’s Climate Change Team to incorporate climate change impacts to anadromous fish propagation waters into critical areas regulations on state lands.

### **Regulations –**

The following regulation packages are circulating for approval:

Nontidal (yearly updates), Lobster (ASMFC requirements)

The following regulation packages will be circulated for approval in the next week:

Yellow Perch (public notices on website and phone system)

The following regulation packages are under preparation:

Penalties (annual adjustments), Restitution (system for egregious fishing violations), Blue Crabbing Charters/Education Permits (consolidate into one regulation), Billfish (add roundscale sailfish)

The following regulation packages have been proposed and are following the APA process:

View proposals in Maryland Register at

<http://www.dsd.state.md.us/MDRegister/mdregister.aspx>

- Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan Amendment — Proposed — 08.02.01.01  
Maryland Register 6/29/12, Comment Period Ends 7/30/12, Scheduled Effective 9/3/12  
Amendment #2 to the 1997 Chesapeake Blue Crab FMP provides the mechanism for formally adopting the new biological reference points and control rule.
- Tautog — Proposed — 08.02.05.20  
Maryland Register 6/29/12, Comment Period Ends 7/30/12, Scheduled Effective 9/3/12

Error found in the Tautog stock assessment: season ends November 26 instead of November 15.

- Horseshoe Crabs — Proposed — 08.02.10.01  
Maryland Register 7/27/12, Comment Period Ends 8/27/12, Scheduled Effective 10/1/12  
Recreational and Commercial fishery changes.
- Oysters — Power Dredge Permit and Lines; Hand Tong Lines — Proposed — 08.02.04.09,.12  
Maryland Register 7/27/12, Comment Period Ends 8/27/12, Scheduled Effective 10/1/12  
Remove permit requirement; fix lines.
- Oysters — PSFA — Proposed — 08.02.04.17  
Maryland Register 7/27/12, Comment Period Ends 8/27/12, Scheduled Effective 10/1/12  
Fix lines.
- Summer Flounder — Proposed — 08.02.05.12  
Maryland Register 8/10/12, Comment Period Ends 9/10/12, Scheduled Effective 10/15/12  
Standardize the declaration period, standardize ownership of a federally permitted vessel, clarify the limit of 2 quotas fished from the same vessel, clarify how overages will be deducted, clarify why public notices are issued, cap the permits at 7 (current number) and allow for transfer of 100% of individual's quota, but with cap on amount of quota any one individual may acquire.
- Black Bass Tournament Permit — Proposed — 08.02.01.11  
Maryland Register 8/24/12, Comment Period Ends 9/24/12, Scheduled Effective 10/29/12  
Require largemouth and smallmouth bass tournament directors to obtain a free permit before conducting bass tournaments in Maryland.
- Black Sea Bass — Proposed — 08.02.05.21  
Maryland Register 9/7/12, Comment Period Ends 10/9/12, Scheduled Effective 11/12/12  
Standardize the declaration period, standardize text regarding ownership of a federally permitted vessel, clarify the limit of 2 quotas fished from the same vessel, clarify how overages will be deducted, clarify why public notices are issued, cap the permits at 14 (current number) and allow for transfer of 100% of individual's quota, but with cap on amount of quota any one individual may acquire.
- Aquaculture — Emergency — 08.02.23.02-.04  
Pending AELR Approval  
Smaller size limit for aquaculture during closed wild fishery, fees and rent for water column leases; seed oyster size.

The following are current emergency actions in effect:

- Fishing in Nontidal Waters — Emergency — 08.02.11.01  
Effective June 26 through December 20, 2012

Remove Lion's Park Pond in Allegany County and Avalon Pond (Lost Lake) in Baltimore County from the list of areas limited to individuals under 16 years of age, 65 years of age and older, and Blind Persons. Both areas will be placed on the Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Areas.

*Fiscal and Management Services Division*

**Reorganization package** – No change